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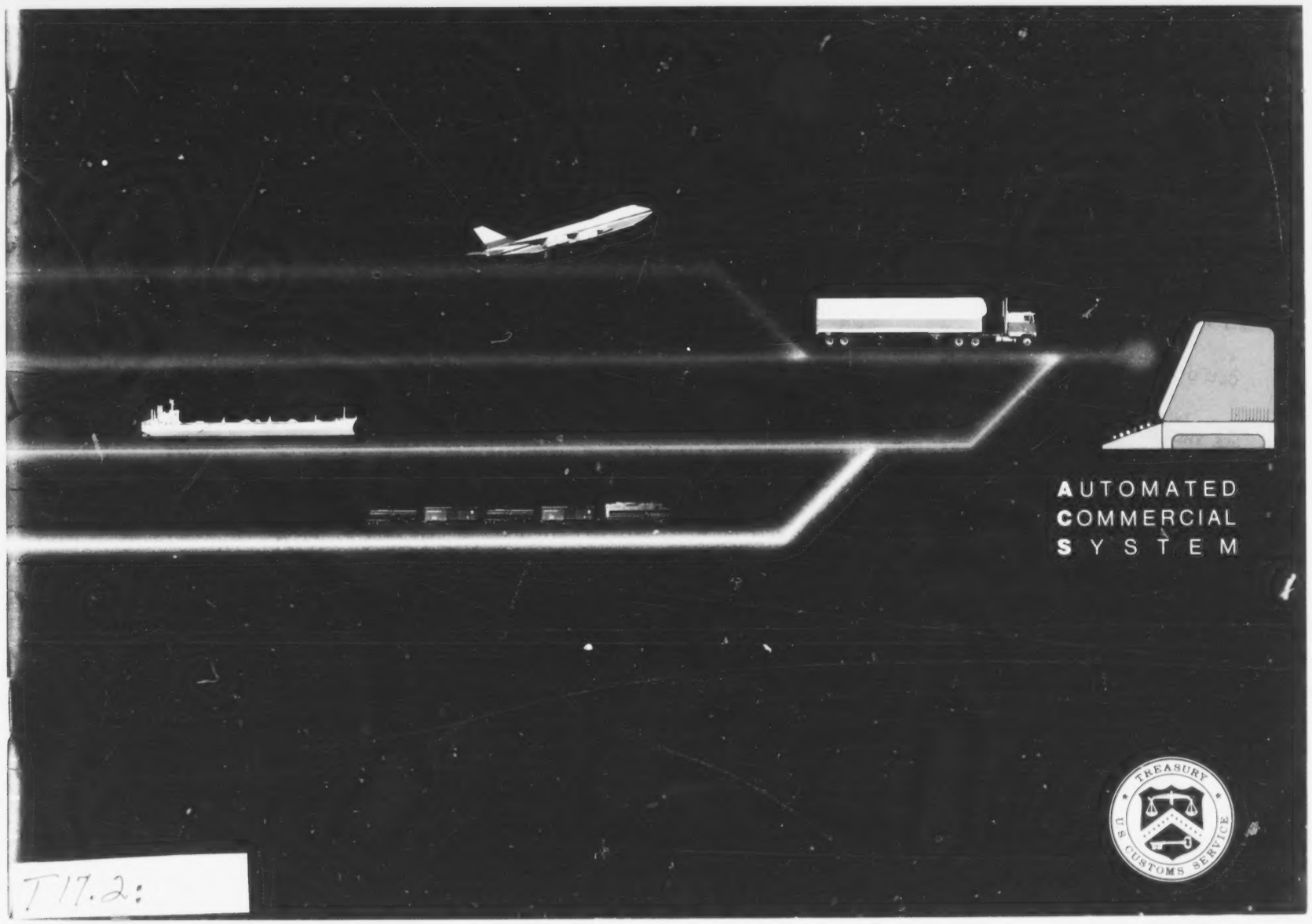


T 17.2:

I congratulate the international trade community and the Customs Service both for improving government services and for facilitating commercial trade through the Customs ***Automated Commercial System.*** Such effective cooperation between the private and public sectors benefits us all.

Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan
President of the United States

INTERNATIONAL TRADE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Your Business Can't Do Without It

What started with a microchip that could be lost in your hand—today affects the handling of even the largest cargo on the most massive vessel in the busiest port.

It is the revolution in international communications. State-of-the-art computers and telecommunications combined into a new technology . . . computerized paperless import processing.

International businesses are using this technology to operate worldwide with a new level of speed, efficiency, and profitability—no place on earth is farther away than the speed of light.

And the U.S. Customs Service is on the cutting edge of this revolution with the ***Automated Commercial System*** (ACS).

ACS is a computer-telecommunications system linking participants in the exchange of international trade data. With ACS, Customs procedures are completed faster than we imagined only a few years ago—and you know what that means in time and money saved.

ACS is growing daily with more trade participants joining the system and reaping the benefits.

The time for you to join ACS is now.

ACS is a computer-telecommunications system linking participants in the exchange of international trade data.

The processing activity resulting from this booming business has created a paper barrier . . .

BREACHING THE PAPER BARRIERS

Allowing Goods to Flow and Business to Grow

Imports have been growing at an unprecedented rate. Formal Customs entries are expected to burgeon from 4.4 million in 1980 to 9.0 million by 1990 (up 105%).

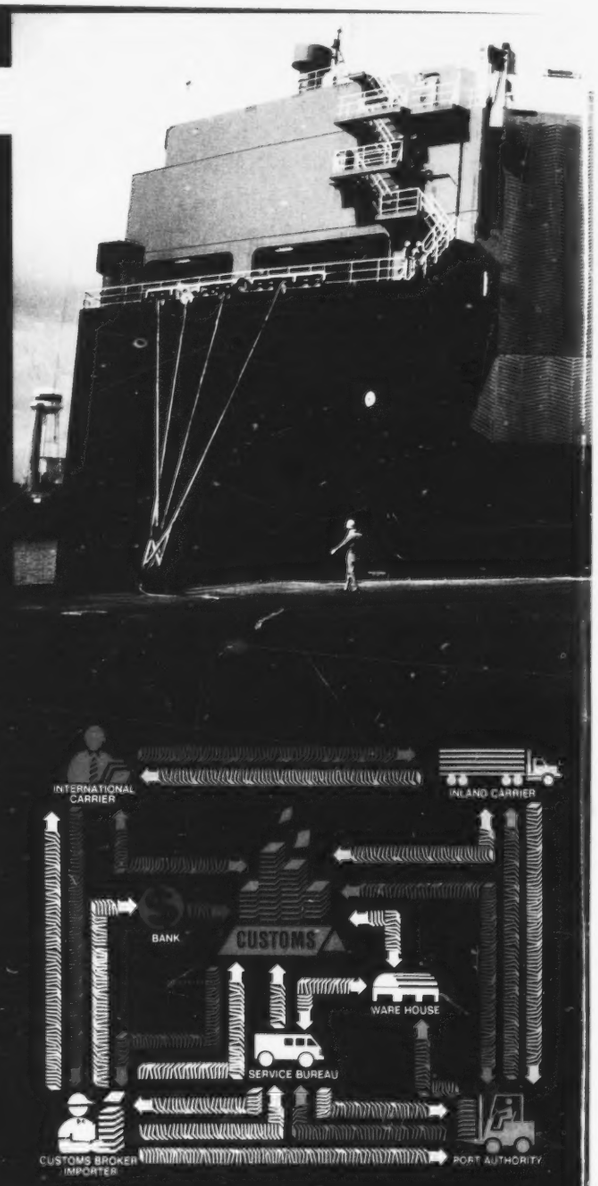
The processing activity resulting from this booming business has created a paper barrier . . . a barrier that blocks the smooth flow of goods to markets.

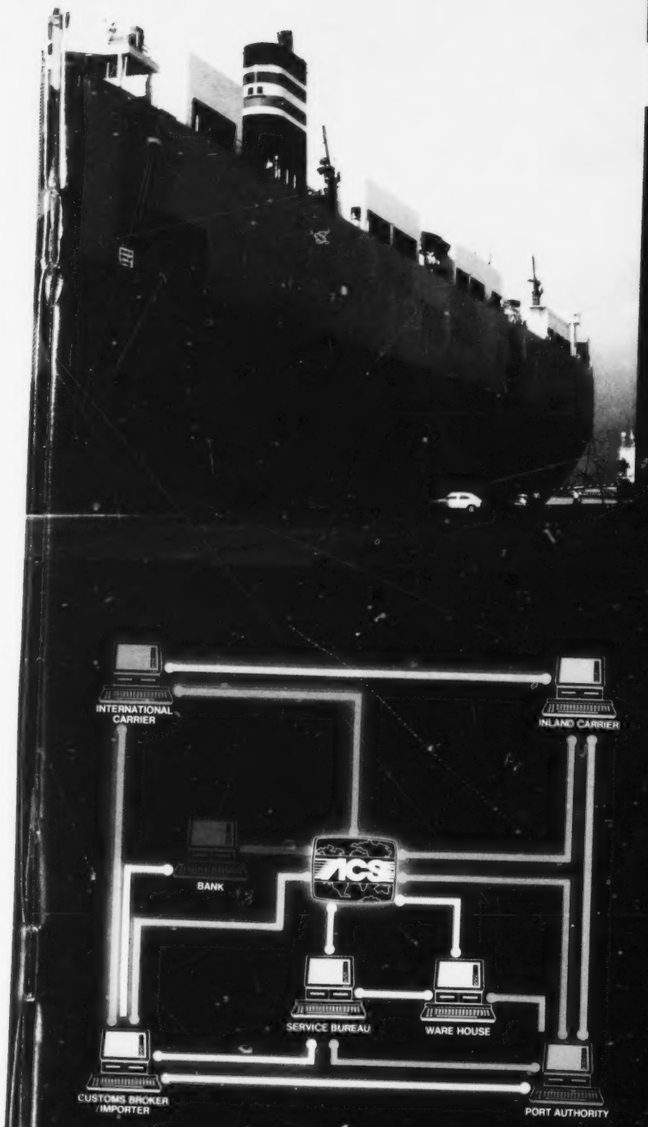
ACS provides the means for trade participants to break through that barrier.

With the speed and efficiency of ACS, you can prevent delays and speed your goods to the factory or marketplace.

Here are some of the ways ACS expedites the movement of cargo and facilitates transactions with Customs . . .

- ***Faster Cargo Release*** – In the electronic environment, ACS will provide you with cargo release notification before your carrier arrives at the port.
- ***Immediate Entry Liquidation*** – Entries not selected for review will be liquidated immediately.
- ***Faster Entry Processing*** – With all the entry data readily at hand in ACS, Customs will process entries much more rapidly.
- ***Paperwork Reduction*** – For the majority of entries, paperwork will be eliminated or reduced.





YOU START WITH YOUR COMPUTER

The System Is At Your Fingertips

Many in the import trade community have already computerized internal operations. Through the computer terminal, agreements can be made, orders placed, shipments arranged, and accounts managed faster and more accurately than ever before.

But few trade participants are fully realizing the range of efficiencies offered by computer capabilities.

That's why ACS is a top priority for Customs. We have the opportunity to engage the entire trade community in a fast, efficient communications system that will speed up import processing for all participants.

With the computer in you office, you can enter this network.

When you're a part of ACS, you can electronically transmit necessary information to Customs and track the status of your entry on demand. Customs clearance moves more quickly and takes far fewer worker hours than the burdensome paperwork of yesterday.

With manifest and entry data in the system, ACS allows you to stay on top of cargo processing through its entry into U.S. commerce.

Access to ACS is permitted on a proprietary basis only, and built-in security measures prevent unauthorized entry and data retrieval.

With ACS at your fingertips—and without leaving your office—your electronic "reach" is extended dramatically, as you transact business and maintain control over import activity to a degree never before possible.

With ACS at your fingertips— your electronic "reach" is extended dramatically.

Your bottom line improves and your customer satisfaction index goes up.

THE BENEFITS OF PROGRESS

Trade Group Leaders Recognize the Promise of ACS

ACS is growing in scope and utility and already bringing many benefits to the trade community.

On the following pages, see what ACS can do for you and how leaders in each segment of the trade community view the benefits offered by this electronic import processing system.

ACS is winning acceptance across the country with increasing numbers of users . . . and for clear business reasons: with ACS, cargo is released faster, warehouse and demurrage costs go down, entry processing costs decrease, management control of import activity increases, your bottom line improves, and your customer satisfaction index goes up.

Check our list of business benefits which ACS offers your segment of the trade community. Our lists are not complete (there's simply not enough room), but the major benefits alone are convincing and reveal the promise acknowledged by leaders in international trade.

See what ACS can do to help your business . . .

William St. John, Jr.
President
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America

"The National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America strongly supports the implementation of an effective ***Automated Commercial System.*** We have worked actively with Customs to realize the benefits of electronic import processing for brokers and their clients. When fully implemented, ACS will speed up entry processing and contribute measurably to maximizing broker efficiency—a boon to clients of automated brokers—who will receive faster quota clearance and pre-arrival cargo release for most merchandise, and enjoy lower through-put costs through faster delivery of goods to the market-place or factory. ACS has the potential to increase the broker's client base, because of the service benefits and efficiencies it brings to the importing customer."

BROKER BENEFITS

Customs brokers realize many advantages through electronic interaction with the ***Automated Commerical System.***

- Faster cargo release
- Uniform Customs processing
- Current tariff data
- Complete and timely liquidation information
- Queries for:
  - –quota status
  - –cargo status
  - –entry status
  - –entry history
- Payment by account for duty, tax, and fees
- Faster, more accurate client billing
- Improved customer service

Brokers and Importers will realize many cost saving benefits.

IMPORTER BENEFITS

Importers realize many benefits and cost savings from the ***Automated Commercial System.***

- Faster release of goods into markets
- Just-in-time inventory control
- Payment by account for duty, tax, and fees
- Savings in demurrage and storage costs
- Current quota and regulatory information
- Faster internal billing
- Better carrier coordination
- Account processing and national liquidations

"The American Association of Exporters and Importers supports all efforts to improve the clearance of goods and reduce the paperwork involved in making entry. The concept behind the ***Automated Commercial System*** (ACS) is consonant with AAEI's belief that Customs clearance should involve a minimum of delay and paperwork. Future nationwide implementation of the full system, based on close adherence to the purpose for which it was conceived and with regard to important concerns expressed by all segments of the U.S. international trade community, will contribute to a more rapid and efficient handling of goods and documentation."

Eugene Milosh
President
American Association of Exporters and Importers

Service Bureaus and Port Authorities will increase their business base.

SERVICE BUREAU BENEFITS

Service bureaus which provide access to the ***Automated Commercial System*** for the importing trade community will increase their business base and will be able to generate new and more reliable statistical information to assist their clients' planning and operations.

- Linkage of carriers, smaller brokers and importers to ACS
- Linkage to port authority/community cargo release systems
- Improved customer service
- Networking with other trade participants
- Improved information flows to clients
- Improved business stability

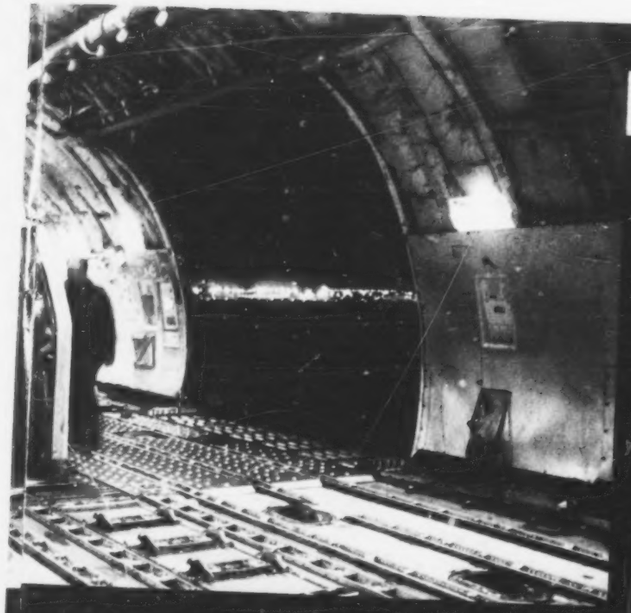
PORT AUTHORITY BENEFITS

Port Authorities linked to the ***Automated Commercial System*** through their own automated port systems will realize great benefits for port operations and off-port client service.

- Faster cargo release notification
- Increased cargo handling capacity
- Faster cargo flow through the port
- Easier carrier and cargo scheduling
- Better port activity analysis
- Improved customer service
- Greater profitability

"The port authority serving as an ACS service center is an option being carefully considered at many ports. The spin-off benefits for port management could be significant. These include a basis for generating new, more reliable statistical information flows to service the port's planning and marketing strategies. As a service center for a fully developed and effective ACS, a port authority can expand its role of leadership and service to the benefit of all its users."

J. Ron Brinson
President
American Association of Port Authorities



INTERNATIONAL CARRIER AND SHIPPER BENEFITS

International carriers and shippers will find many advantages from participating in ACS.

- Better cargo scheduling
- Improved response to client commitments
- Electronic manifest transmission
- Automated manifest reconciliation
- Automated manifest discrepancy resolution
- Pre-arrival cargo release authorization
- Reduced shipping costs
- Faster cargo processing
- Bottom line improvement

International Carriers, Shippers, and Inland Carriers benefit with increased profitability.

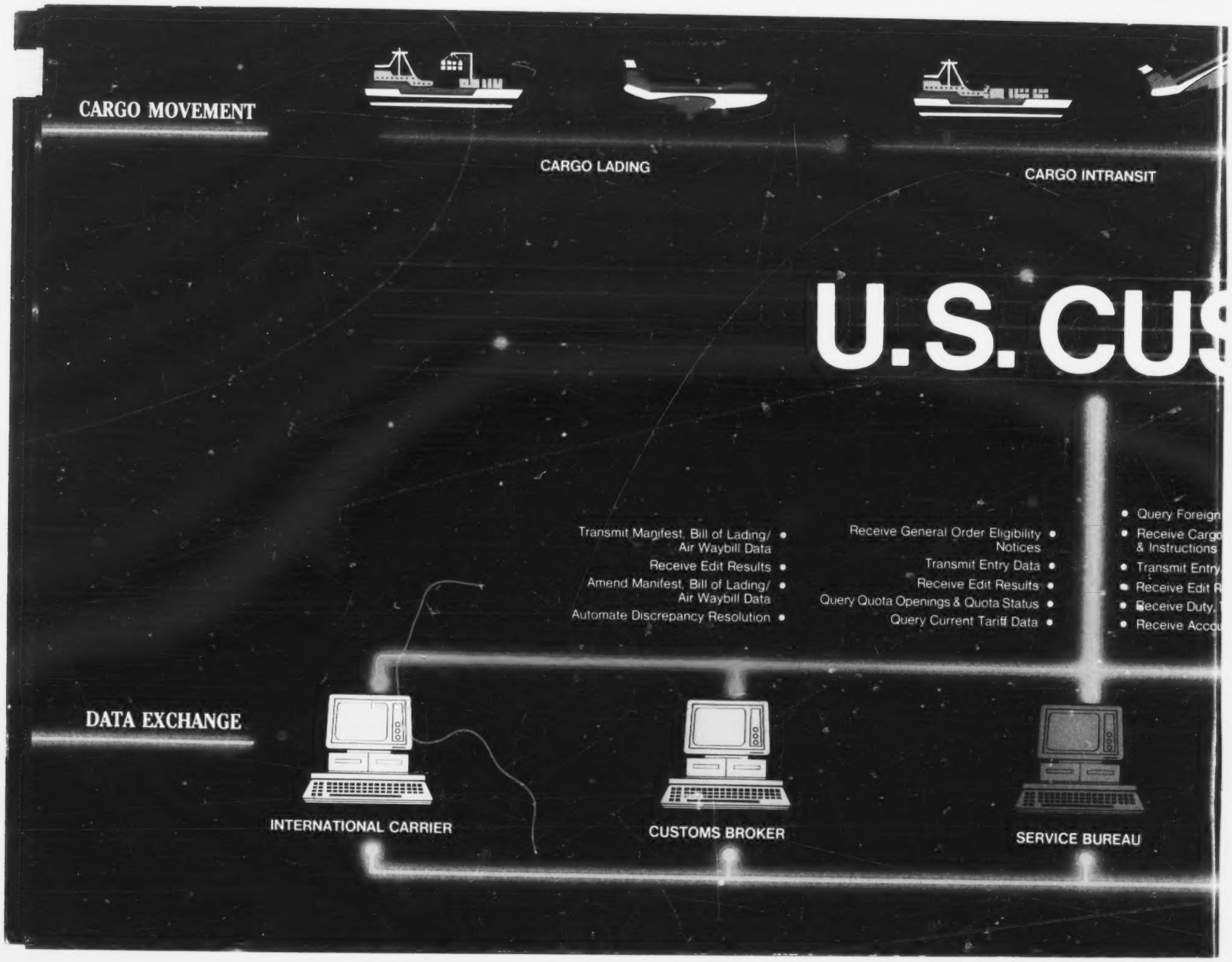
INLAND CARRIER BENEFITS

Carriers benefit from improved information exchange and faster cargo processing through ACS.

- Tighter scheduling of cargo pickup and delivery
- Less dead time and queuing
- Better cargo tracking
- Coordination with shippers and importers
- Better customer service
- Increased profitability

"As the nation's oldest and largest shippers' trade association, we would like to congratulate the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Customs Service for this ambitious and forward-thinking plan to facilitate the smooth flow of commerce between our nation and the world. The National Industrial Transportation League wholeheartedly supports these efforts to eliminate waste, improve the accuracy of shipment information, and increase productivity for all parties engaged in international trade. We look forward to working with the many companies and individuals who will be contributing to the evolution of this commendable project. Its success should ensure that U.S. business will be able to meet tomorrow's competitive challenges."

James E. Bartley
Executive Vice President
The National Industrial Transportation League


CARGO MOVEMENT
CARGO LADING
CARGO INTRANSIT
U.S. CUS
Transmit Manifest, Bill of Lading/ Air Waybill Data
Receive Edit Results
Amend Manifest, Bill of Lading/ Air Waybill Data
Automate Discrepancy Resolution
Receive General Order Eligibility Notices
Transmit Entry Data
Receive Edit Results
Query Quota Openings & Quota Status
Query Current Tariff Data
Query Foreign
Receive Cargo & Instructions
Transmit Entry
Receive Edit R
Receive Duty,
Receive Accou
DATA EXCHANGE
INTERNATIONAL CARRIER
CUSTOMS BROKER
SERVICE BUREAU

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• Receive Change Liquidation Information
• Query Entry/Summary History
• Update Inventory
• Develop Import Activity Statistics
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Retrieve Entry Summary
for Review or Dispos
Perform Entry Summary Selec
Liquidate, Suspend or Extend
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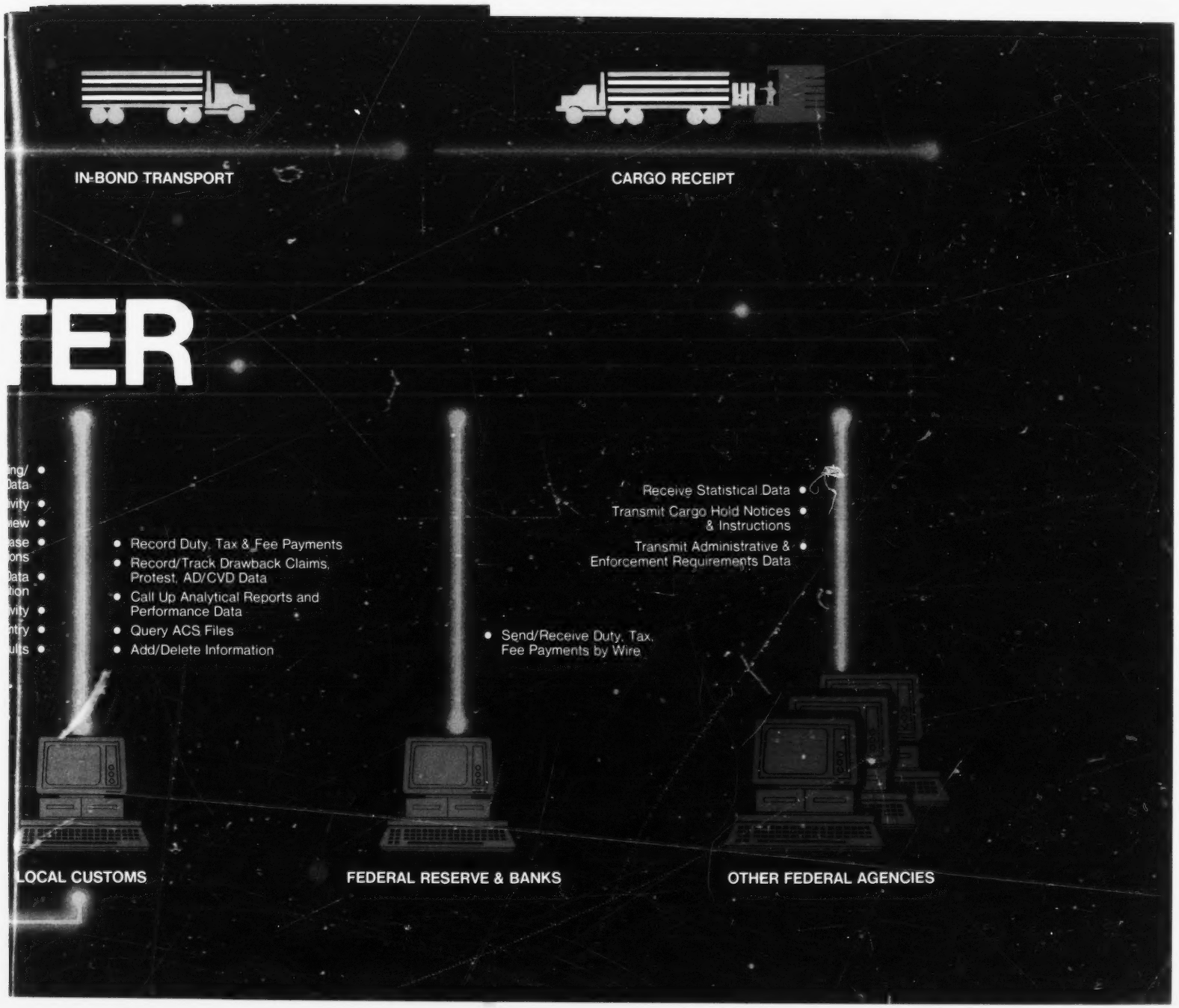
Receive In-Bond • Shipment Data
Receive Cargo Pick-Up • Authorization
IMPORTER/FTZ
PORT AUTHORITY
INLAND CARRIER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• Call Up Analytical Reports and Performance Data
• Query ACS Files
• Add/Delete Information
• Send/Receive Duty, Tax, Fee Payments by Wire
Receive Statistical Data •
Transmit Cargo Hold Notices & Instructions •
Transmit Administrative & Enforcement Requirements Data •
LOCAL CUSTOMS
FEDERAL RESERVE & BANKS
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

"The European Community is developing and adopting procedures, definitions, forms and coding systems which will be utilized by all member countries to promote uniform and simplified procedures. These efforts are an essential step toward development of a uniform trade data exchange system. Our Coordinated Development Project, an automated system for use within the EC for exchange of trade data, should in the near future, be used to exchange data with nations outside the EC. I am pleased to note that the U.S. Customs Service's ***Automated Commercial System*** is making a significant contribution to facilitating the rapid flow of goods into American markets. In the future, I can conceive of the automated interchange of trade data through these systems."

Friedrich Peter Klein
Director General
Customs Service,
Commission of the
European Communities

"NCITD would like to commend U.S. Customs for its energetic effort in planning and developing this important system. If the ***Automated Commercial System*** meets the objectives, as jointly developed by U.S. Customs and industry representatives, we will be brought significantly closer to realizing NCITD's goals of computerizing and electronically exchanging international trade data. ACS should expedite and streamline cargo release procedures, alleviate the burdensome filing of numerous forms and reports, standardize documentation, and improve accountability for imported cargo. The goal of NCITD of promoting a world-wide international trade data network to expedite and simplify the exchange of documentation information will be significantly advanced by ACS and will support NCITD's overall concept of a cargo data interchange system."

Eugene A. Hemley
Executive Director
National Council on
International Trade
Documentation

ACS has interfaces specifically designed to meet the needs of...

YOUR PLACE IN ACS

System Flexibility Gives ACS Advantages to All

ACS has interfaces specifically designed to meet the needs of international carriers and shippers, brokers, importers, service bureaus, port authorities and foreign trade zones—regardless of size.

AUTOMATED BROKER INTERFACE

Large volume Customs brokers can transmit entry and entry summary data . . . query the system for quota status, tariff data, foreign exchange rates, cargo and entry status . . . receive release and liquidation information . . . transfer funds . . . benefit from statement accounting. Future electronic documentation and queries will be interactive.

AUTOMATED SERVICE BUREAU INTERFACE

Smaller volume brokers, importers, and carriers can realize all the advantages of ACS by linking to the system through a service bureau or a port authority providing such services. Service bureaus transmit manifest and entry/summary data for numerous clients and can query ACS files for the full range of data available to larger firms through the broker and trade interfaces.

- Automated broker interface
- Automated trade interface
- Cargo selectivity & release
- Entry summary processing
- Sea manifest filing
- In-bond cargo tracking
- Bond verification & renewal
- Revenue collections
- Daily statement accounting
- Liquidation notification

- Entry selectivity and release
- New Entry number system
- Drawback claims tracking
- Quota openings & status
- Agriculture licensing
- Warehouse entry & withdrawal module

READY END 1986

- Entry summary selectivity & immediate liquidation
- Paperless entry summary
- Air waybill filing
- Port Authority interface
- Expanded selectivity
- Interactive terminals for brokers
- Petroleum licensing
- Automated Census interface

1987 & BEYOND

- Uniform classification
- General Order Warehouse tracking
- Antidumping/ Countervailing Duty tracking
- Account based structure
- Electronic funds transfer
- Rail & truck manifest filing
- Harmonized tariff

AUTOMATED TRADE INTERFACE

Qualified importers, international carriers and foreign trade zone managers can transmit manifest data and amend it electronically . . . transmit entry and entry summary data . . . query ACS for quota status, tariff schedules, foreign exchange rates, cargo and entry history . . . receive release and liquidation notices . . . transfer funds . . . and receive statement accounts by billing codes.

AUTOMATED PORT AUTHORITY INTERFACE

Port authority community cargo release systems can transmit manifest data and receive cargo hold/release information with concurrent notification to brokers and importers . . . receive cargo tracking and release/pickup information to expedite cargo movement . . . generate timely and accurate port performance data for planning. Trade participants that use port systems set up as service centers can realize the business advantages offered by the broker and trade interfaces to direct interface users.

. . . generate timely and accurate port performance data for planning.

The ACS Support Team will swing into action, helping you to come on line.

CUSTOMS USER SUPPORT PROGRAM

We're With You All The Way

Tell us you're interested in ACS and we're ready to help.

Customs is ready to offer you the services of its ACS Support Team—a combination of headquarters, regional, and district personnel—and resources to help you:

- Get on line quickly.
- Move smoothly and efficiently from manual to automated operations.
- Ensure that your equipment and software can take full advantage of all ACS benefits.

All you have to do is . . .
Fill out and mail the card at the back of this brochure.

The ACS Support Team will swing into action, helping you to come on line with . . .

Planning

The best transition from manual to automated operations is a smooth transition. Planning that is coordinated with Customs from the beginning will help you automate successfully.

Organization and Control

You have the option of requesting ACS Support Team assistance to organize your automated processing procedures—so you can receive the best possible output.

Edit Logic

In the world of data processing, nothing is worse than bad input . . . and nothing is better than accuracy. The ACS Support Team will provide you with the processing logic needed by your programmers for data editing and verification, the same logic used by Customs ACS computer.

Working With the ACS Support Team

When you're on line with ACS, the support team will stay on line with you—answering questions, solving problems, and making sure you get the most from ACS.

Training

The ACS Support Team will assist your personnel to handle ACS transmissions and queries.

Updating and Support

Even after you're on line, ACS will continue to expand and improve. The ACS Support Team will always be there to help you—keeping you up-to-the-minute on new ACS features with support that includes updated manuals and electronic messages.

Customs is ready to provide this full range of support—right from the minute you tell us you want to begin planning. Just think of the ACS Support Team as your special assistant for automation!

The ACS Support Team will always be there to help you . . .

We want you to join with others in the trade community in moving ahead to greater efficiency and profitability.

A LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

We're Moving With the Movers

Tomorrow's business success will belong to the trade participants who are taking advantage of the technological revolution . . . speeding cargo movement and increasing efficiency and business profitability. At U.S. Customs, we're taking part in the revolution. We play a key role in international trade, and we're ensuring that Customs assists in speeding up the orderly flow of trade.

We are making a substantial investment in the changeover to the ACS program—in funds and in the time and energy of our staff.

Although Customs is proud of its fine 200 year history, we are eager to leave 200 year-old practices behind. We won't throw good people after old ideas or outdated business practices. We've created our system based on the best approaches being developed today—new methods that make good business sense now and in the future.

We also recognize that our trade partners have the best advice to offer in this field: Local ACS pilot projects could not have been so successful without the help of the trade community.

Work is going forward on all aspects of ACS. Our top priority is the complete computerization of Customs commercial transactions. Our timetable is set and will be met. We want you to join with others in the trade community in moving ahead to greater efficiency and profitability.

ACS is designed for flexibility—there are many ways for each participant to use and benefit from the system. Our staff stands ready to help you make the most of the opportunity. We can help you do business better. There are many good reasons for you to come on-line with ACS, but they all add up to the best reason of all:
improving your bottom line.

William von Raab.

William von Raab
Commissioner of Customs

You've seen how ACS can bring you the benefits of state-of-the-art electronic import processing.

You can help shape the system by telling us what you think.

■ As you read this booklet, what did you think was the most important benefit of ACS? The potential for pre-release? One-time entry of data? Something else?

■ Are there any features we haven't mentioned that you think our system should have?

■ If ACS speeds up your Customs processing by just 50 percent, how many working hours per year do you think you'd save?

■ Is there other information you'd like to have about ACS?
(Please write your specific questions or comments.)

The ACS Support Team Should Contact:

(Name and title of person in your organization to be contacted by the ACS team)

Organization Name

Address

City *State* *Zip*

Telephone

FOLD TAPE MAIL

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

For the purpose of Customs planning, please tell us:

How many entries you prepare, if any. _____ entries per month.

Your role in the international trade community —

- ☐ a Customs broker
- ☐ an importer
- ☐ an international carrier
- ☐ a service bureau
- ☐ a warehouse or terminal operator
- ☐ a foreign trade zone
- ☐ a port authority
- ☐ port service organization
- ☐ other _____

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United States Customs Service
Attn: ACS Support Team
1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

The Treasury Department is committed to bringing the benefits of automation to the operations of the government. The Customs ***Automated Commercial System*** improves communication between members of the international trade community and U.S. Customs. It will speed cargo processing, realize cost savings to the government, and produce great economic benefits to the commercial trade.

James A. Baker, III
Secretary of the Treasury

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE • ACS Support Team • 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229